

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

Sierra National Forest

RANCHERIA FALLS High Sierra Ranger District

The Rancheria Falls Trail is located in the Huntington Lake Recreation Area approximately one mile east of Huntington Lake of Rancheria Creek.

The trail to Rancheria Falls is of gentle grade and is one mile in length. The trail surface is composed of soil and duff, except for a rocky section near the falls. Elevation ranges from 7,760 feet at the trailhead to 8,120 feet at the end of the trail near the base of the falls. The trail passes through a True-Fir timber type. Understory includes whitethorn, gooseberry and chinquapin. Various wildflowers are present along the trail in early summer.

Rancheria Falls is approximately 150 feet high and 50 feet wide. The falls remain active throughout the year and have good water activity even during low water years. The shaded coolness of the trail and the ever changing beauty of the falls is very inviting to the Forest visitor. The trail is short enough that many visitors enjoy packing a lunch and eating by the falls.

Hiking begins in the late spring and summer after the snow melts and during the early fall before the winter storms begin.

The Rancheria Falls Trail is most suited to hiking. Due to the shortness of the trail and restricted turn around, horse use is not advised. The trail is closed to all motorized use.

Northwest of the trail is Huntington Lake Recreation Area, a heavily used developed recreation complex of campgrounds, picnic areas, and recreation residences nestled around Huntington Lake. Approximately one million visitor days of use is recorded annually in this area.

There are no sanitation facilities at the trailhead. Facilities are available at the nearby Huntington Lake Recreation Area.

A PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT system of disposal is in effect for this trail.





BLACK POINT HIKING TRAIL High Sierra Ranger District

Black Point Trail is located just west of Huntington Lake along the boundary of beautiful Kaiser Wilderness. To reach the trail, take Huntington Lake Road west to road 8S32 (about a mile past the dam). Follow 8S32 approximately 4 miles to the Black Point Trailhead.

Black Point Trail is 0.6 miles in length and makes a pleasant morning or afternoon hike. Elevation at the trailhead is 7,640 feet. From there, it raises to 8,111 feet at the top of Black Point. Once at the top a scenic view of Huntington Lake, Shaver Lake, the crest of Kaiser Ridge, and San Joaquin River Canyon can be seen.

Most of the trail runs through a true Fir plant community that includes fir, whitethorn, gooseberry, and chinquapin. At the top of Black Point the plant community changes to "Sierra Juniper" and includes Jeffrey Pine and Green Manzanita as well as juniper.

A number of signs along the trail identify the local plant and tree species. They were constructed by the Youth Conservation Corp, who assisted the Forest Service in maintaining the trail.

Most of Black Point Trail is of moderate slope, with a flat dirt and duff surface. There is only one rocky, steep section which occurs near the top. The grade here is about 20%, but it is a short section and the view is worth it!

The trail is usually free of snow and ready to hike from June through October. It is suitable for both foot and horse travel.

Sanitation facilities are not available on the trail itself, but can be found nearby at the Huntington Lake Recreation Areas. There are no garbage receptacles along the trail, so remember it you pack it in, PACK IT OUT!

All Are Welcome

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